

REMARKS

Claims 8 and 9 remain in the application and have been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 8 and 9 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 8 and 9 have been amended in part to give proper antecedent basis to the claim limitation "the distributed information".

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claims 8 and 9 are clear and definite in their recitation of the present invention and meet all requirements of 35 USC 112.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 8 and 9 under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by Ushiki et al.

Claim 8 recites an accounting system wherein an intermediate accounting process of decrementing accounting points stored in a first memory is performed in the terminal device. The final accounting processing is performed in the accounting center based on the accounting points remaining in the first memory of the terminal device and transmitted by the terminal device to the accounting center.

Looking at Ushiki et al. we see that the accounting system, not the terminal, stores the accounting information and

calculates a fee for a communication between the subscriber terminals communicating with each other. Ushiki et al. is silent about any accounting processing being performed in the terminal device.

Claim 9 recites an accounting system wherein the terminal device makes a request for purchasing accounting points from the accounting center. Ushiki et al. is silent about the terminal device being capable of purchasing accounting points.

Therefore, because the Ushiki et al.'s structure is formed differently from that of the presently claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that the positively recited structure of amended claims 8 and 9 cannot be found in Ushiki et al. and that Ushiki et al. does not anticipate the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

The references cited as of interest and not relied upon have been reviewed and are not seen to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the amended claims.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 8 and 9 by rewriting same to read as follows.

--8. (Amended) An accounting system including an accounting center and a terminal device [capable of] for communicating with the account center,

the terminal device comprising:

a first memory [means] for storing accounting point information;

a second memory [means] for storing distributed information distributed from an external source; and

[first control means] a controller (for updating the accounting point information stored in the first memory [means] and (for updating attributes of the distributed information when the distributed information is stored in the second memory [means]),

wherein when the distributed information is stored into the second memory, the controller decrements the accounting point information stored in the first memory and updates the attributes of the distributed information from an unavailable state to an available state, and

the accounting center comprising:

accounting means for carrying out an accounting processing [corresponding to] based on the accounting point information transmitted from the terminal device.

--9. (Amended) An accounting system including an accounting center and a terminal device [capable of] for communicating with the accounting center,

the terminal device comprising:

a first memory [means] for storing accounting point information;

a second memory [means] for storing distributed information distributed from an external source;

a first [control means] controller for updating the accounting point information stored in the first memory [means] and for updating attributes of the distributed information when the distributed information is stored in the second memory [means]; and

a second [control means] controller for making a request for purchasing the accounting point information to the accounting center and for updating the accounting point information stored in the first memory [means on the basis of] based on an accounting processing corresponding to the accounting point information [which is] executed at the accounting center, and

the accounting center comprising:

accounting means for carrying out an other accounting

6715/60188-Z

processing [corresponding to] based on the request for purchasing
the accounting point information transmitted from the terminal
device.--